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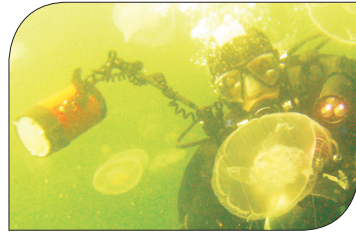
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ARTS—11



TIPPING THE SCALES

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Nexus
Editorial

Hang on to your ego

SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

STAFF WRITER

With the crisp Canadian winter in full effect, January traditionally is the coldest month of the year. The month can also be a time for reflection.

As the New Year stretches its legs for the first time, we too can branch out, leaning shakily towards a decision or a self-made resolution of one form or another, the goal of which, presumably, is self-improvement.

It was in this mindset that I recently took a page from the oft-misunderstood and intellectually dazzling occultist Aleister Crowley. An exercise from this long-dead iconoclast—not saying “I” for three days—captured my curiosity.

It sounds simple, doesn't it? Simply stop saying “I” or any of its derivatives for three days. Not a problem.

Like many, my knowledge of Crowley was limited to his notoriety through Christian fundamentalists who were terrified of him and his influence on pop culture, which ranged from rock bands like the Beatles and Led Zeppelin to psychedelic guru Timothy Leary and subversive comic-book scribe Alan Moore.

The rather playful idea of simply not saying “I” for a fixed timeframe made me giddy at the possibilities and peculiarities that might follow.

Like any meditation or self-help reverie, the gist of the exercise was

a mental and social process that would lead to creative thinking and ego detachment.

Once dubbed “the wickedest man in the world” by the tabloids, Crowley encouraged his followers to cut themselves with a razorblade each time they muttered “I” aloud during this exercise.

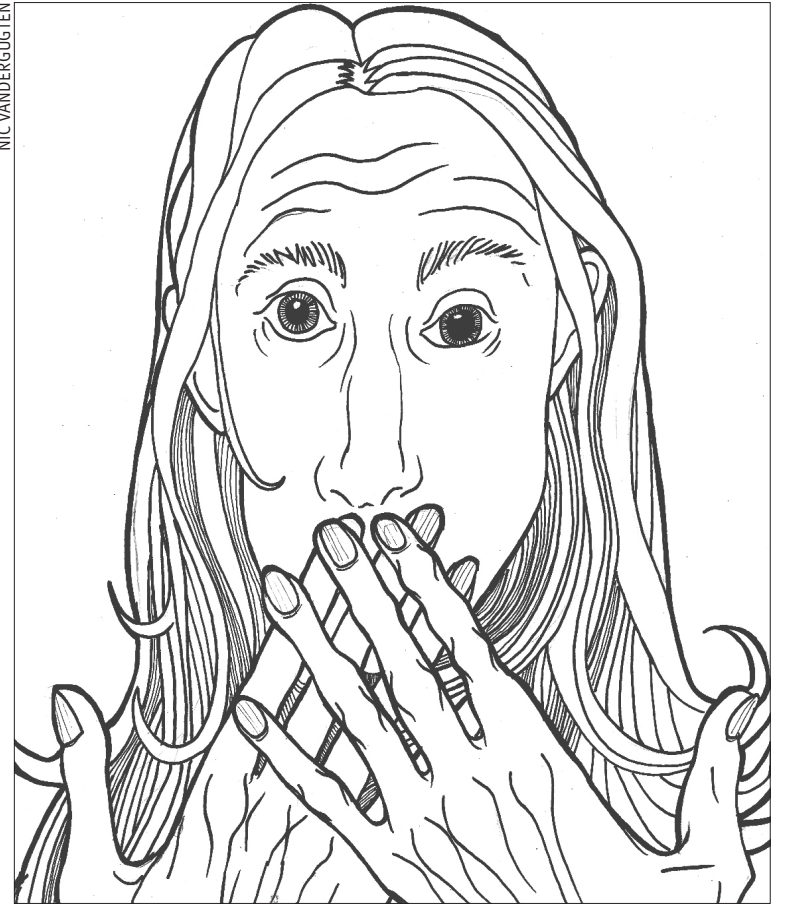
The rather playful idea of simply not saying “I” for a fixed timeframe made me giddy at the possibilities and peculiarities that might follow.

I chose a kinder, gentler route—I would discreetly bite my hand whenever I said the offending vowel. This proved painful but effective... and less bloody.

In no time I was anticipating social interactions and dreaming up ways to respond from a somewhat sheepish plateau, removed from ego and all of its pursuits.

A routine question such as “how are you today?” took on vastly different and diverse connotations and significance.

But like the silent retreats and various other spiritual disciplines out there waiting to take us for a recapitulating ride, I got out what I put



NIC VANDERGUGTEN

in. It felt like a meditation in many ways and that was impressive.

Meditation has never come my way easily—no matter how much striving for inner tranquility and detached serenity, my inner monologue has never known when to zip it. But while doing this experiment my thoughts and feelings became more intense soon enough. They were mine in a way they had never previously been. This felt like a

brand of self-awareness I'd never known. Maybe this wasn't enlightenment, but it was something.

Whenever we're jostled from our comfort zone and joyfully shaken with a chance to glean knowledge and transcendence, we should take note.

Seeing the world for a few days with fresh eyes really reveals how our world wants to frolic and play around. Why not play back?

Open Space

Open Space accepts submissions from Camosun students. Submissions to Open Space should be 400 words or less. Responses to previous articles in Nexus should be 250 words or less. E-mail submissions to nexus@nexusnewspaper.com and include your name and student number.

Just gag me with a spoon

BRANDON ROSARIO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We are a youth culture that has grown up on manufactured Hollywood gore, penis-joke encyclopedias, and basic-cable violence. The result? A teenage demographic that has seen and heard it all.

Now that the awe-factor surrounding movie-theater bloodbaths like the *Saw* franchise has finally worn off, kids all over the globe have been forced to look elsewhere for a cheap thrill, a quick fix—something, anything, to make their jaw drop.

It's no surprise that the Internet, serving as the premier stomping ground for the world's most perverse individuals, has become an outlet for some of the crudest, most

disgusting—and often most hilarious—content imaginable.

Indeed, shock video has become the latest online trend.

It's a new genre of short clips that have been designed to provide hours of hysterical laughter and re-playable entertainment, not to mention shock and repulsion, without having to listen to a Bob Saget running commentary in the background.

The origins of shock media can be traced back to 1999 when a young Canadian writer named Jay Stile began publishing obscene images and videos on his blog.

Despite numerous attempts to shut the site down, *the Stile Project* managed to stay afloat and was pivotal in leading 21st-century

perverts out of the darkness and into the semi-incandescence of a new underground community. From Jay Stile's collection came the legendary goatse.cx website.

This is 2010, where the porn is free and a guy can become a celebrity by eating another guy's puke on camera.

Recently, shock video has undergone a renaissance as producers compete for advertising space—apparently, watching a woman dump a jar of eels into her vagina will remind the consumer to always ship with FedEx.

Websites and images like meatspin.com, *the BME Pain Olympics*, *the Church of Fudge*, *Salsa Snack*, *Tubgirl*, *Kids in a Sandbox*, and, of course, *2 Girls 1 Cup*, which is hailed by many as the lonely-basement-dweller's *Casablanca* of our time, a sort of rite of passage for the aspiring shock veteran.

These videos have become staples of the shock-connoisseurs diet, further confirming the belief in

many social conservatives that we're a society that has lost its decency.

Decency? Integrity? Those are virtues of the past; who needs them?

This is 2010, where the porn is free and a guy can become a celebrity by eating another guy's puke on camera.

In the Internet era, it—unfortunately—wouldn't be much of a stretch to assume that most 13-year-old boys could probably explain the subtle details of a dirty Sanchez before they could name the capital of France.

We are shifting towards a more liberally tolerant society, and doing so will require that adults acknowledge the fact that their kids are going to see some pretty bad stuff online.

Absorbing fecal pornography, self-castration, and the consumption of vaginal fluids into the lexicon will be a tough but inevitable process as the Internet is utilized more and more as our main public space.

We've explored the oceans, walked on the moon, and defeated the communists.

The last great frontier for our society to conquer lies in the depths of the human stomach, where there will be a final confrontation between humans and their gag reflexes.

YOUR OPINION GOES HERE

This is Open Space, a forum for Camosun students to share opinions and thoughts. Open Space accepts submissions from Camosun students. Submissions to Open Space should be 400 words or less. Responses to previous articles in Nexus should be 250 words or less.



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In-class surfing affects student focus, say instructors

SHAWN O'HARA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Focusing during a lecture or lab has always been a problem for some. And browsing the Internet and using cell phones in class isn't helping the already overwhelmed college student, a trend that's not going unnoticed by Camosun instructors.

It's easy for students to get sidetracked, especially with diversions such as texting, Facebook, and iPhone apps always within their grasps.

Joseph Hoh has been teaching for 20 years and is chairman of the Visual Arts program at Camosun. In addition to the stresses of student life, Hoh believes that the availability and commonality of modern technology may be a contributing factor to student's losing track of their studies.

In particular, the presence of laptops in the classroom has contributed to the sometimes-shaky focus of students.

"Yeah, I have a problem with that," says Hoh. "I always say, 'If you're taking notes, that's fine. If you're Facebooking or things like that, that's not okay.'"

Hoh also believes that with sometimes-complicated classroom instruction, along with information-heavy lectures, laptops can add one more thing for students to think about. It may just be too much.

"They say that people are better at multitasking now, but the jury's still out," says Hoh. "It's believed that people who are better at multitasking can find it more difficult to focus on the important tasks. They find that even though you may be better at multitasking, it doesn't mean the quality of the final product has gone up."

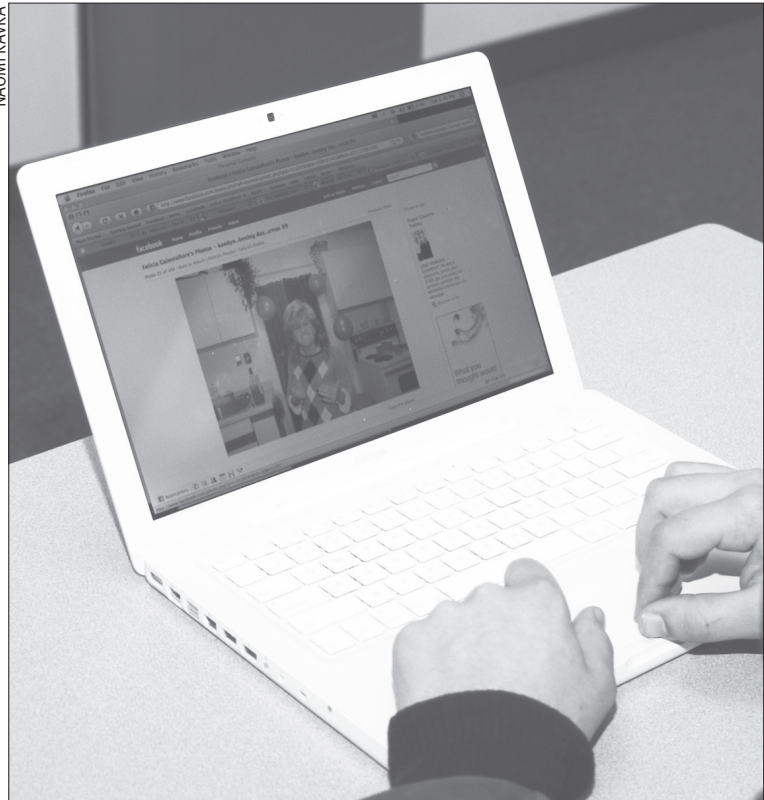
"I always say, 'If you're taking notes, that's fine. If you're Facebooking or things like that, that's not okay.'"

JOSEPH HOH
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Steven Henn, an Environmental Science instructor at Camosun, says although it can be distracting for his students, web browsing shouldn't be restricted; it should be up to them to make the call.

"Some students spend time surfing the web or checking email when they should be working, but, really, at this point, they should be mature enough to know when that's not a good idea," says Henn.

Justin Lockhart, a Math and Psychology student, agrees that



Social-networking sites can be a huge distraction for students.

always having the Internet at your fingertips can lead to a lack of attention, as the temptation proves to be just too much sometimes.

"I find that Facebook and things like that are a big distraction," says Lockhart. "I'll start saying, 'Okay, I'll just check this,' but before I know it, I'm browsing someone's wedding photos or something."

Despite the bulk of informa-

tion and stimuli faced by students nearly every day, and the external pressures outside of class as students attempt to deal with today's economic climate, Hoh is optimistic and believes they still have what it takes to be successful.

"They're just as hard working," says Hoh on today's students. "I just think, emotionally, it might be harder."

Reading break too short for students

MAX VON KLEIST
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What should be changed about reading break? Most Camosun students say the answer is obvious—make it longer!

Students at Camosun are supplied with only a two-day reading break in the winter semester, this year taking place on Feb. 18–19.

It's during these two days that students are given a short rest from the hustle and bustle of school and are expected to catch up on their studies. But, for many, it's not nearly long enough.

With projects, essays, and various assignments, students have little or no time to relax, and barely

have enough time to catch up on their studies during the two-day break, never mind go on any spring break-style vacation.

"Two days off a school year is simply not enough. I don't even consider it a break."

DEAN SPARLING
CAMOSUN STUDENT

"I'll tell you what my reading break will most likely be like," says

Amanda Baart, Camosun Nursing student. "I'll be at home in front of my computer studying for tests and hating life. Why isn't our break longer?"

Baart isn't alone. Many students feel it would be much more beneficial if the break was extended to a full week, like UVic has in mid-February, or at least a short reading break each semester.

"Two days off a school year is simply not enough. I don't even consider it a break," says Dean Sparling, a Camosun Business student.

Students say they could catch up on studying and still have some time to step back from the stresses of

school and take a mental—or even actual—vacation if the Camosun reading break was extended or repeated.

"I just wish reading break was given more importance," says Camosun Nursing student Alexandra Ross. "I always have so much work to catch up on and I always have to spend my break working on that. It would be nice if I had some time to forget about school during the year."

Maybe someday the students of Camosun will get their reading-break wishes. For now, get those books open and get ready to bear down when Feb. 18–19 comes around.

NEWS BRIEFS

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Requiting for quitting

The BC Lung Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, and Camosun College have formed a triumvirate to tackle tobacco. February will see a month-long contest called Quit to Win (Q2W) that will be open to faculty, staff, and students who want to quit or reduce tobacco use, and also to minimize secondhand smoke concerns. Until the Camosun Q2W contest goes full-on, the province will be performing a similar butt-out battle royale going under the banner Quit Now & Win, until Feb. 2. With cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$5,000 and no need to spend any of the winnings on smokes, it looks like peeps' pockets can get plenty deeper. Visit quitnow.ca for all the information you'll need on the provincial portion of this pageant and contact turtf@camosun.bc.ca to get the dealy-o from Camosun's Tobacco Use Reduction Task Force. Smoke 'em if you got 'em? No way—the times they are a-changin'.

Get on the bus!

In the name of Go Green initiatives—and public bellyaching—BC Transit is promising to improve bus services. With additional express and late-night service on busier routes (but only on a three-month trial basis), Victoria may actually start to feel like a city that's down with alternative public transportation and helping seniors and students putt around. Finally! Check out bctransit.com to get the new bus schedule and to see what other bus-related beeswax is buzzing around.

Georgia goes gaga for Camosun's calendar

While it doesn't feature bikini babes or fetching firemen, Camosun's continuing education course calendar beat out over 140 nominations to get top design prize in Savannah, Georgia recently. The Learning Resources Network (LERN) presented the 2010 LERN International Award for Excellence in Brochure Design for the fall calendar. "It's a college-wide team effort," beams David Sovka, associate director of College Relations.

Ante up for anti-violence anthology, eh?

Caitlin Press, a small charitable non-profit, is preparing for an anthology of writing to be published in fall 2010 to help stop violence towards women and girls. If you have a story to share along these delicate lines, get in touch with the facilitator of this project, Emma Cochrane, at loudspeakerfestival@gmail.com and be heard. You needn't be a writer as Cochrane and company are interested in interviewing subjects to incorporate their stories into this charitable and empowering project. The direction for this anthology is to be varied and will be a mixed bag of experiences that, while serious in subject matter, can still be humorous and ranging in tone. If you've got a story to share and a tale to tell, now's the chance to get it out there and this is a great forum for it.

SPEAK UP

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

What do you think was the best or worst trend of the 2000s?



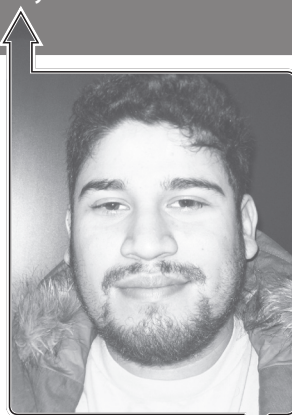
JAMES REEVES

"Really huge trucks are the worst. Enough already."



STEPHANIE HURST

"Lululemon and UGG boots. Talk about 'ugh!'"



CHRIS GUILLEN

"Popped-up collars are an eyesore."



MARIAH GATES

"Bringing neon back is a good one."



ANGELA BROWN

"Leg warmers are a no-no."

Group raises \$140k by playing world's most boring video game

ANDREW BATES

THE PHOENIX (UBC OKANAGAN)

KELOWNA, BC (CUP)—After more than five straight days of gaming, Internet sketch comedy group LoadingReadyRun were wracked with exhaustion in their Victoria headquarters at the end of November.

At 10:30 am on Nov. 25, the troupe completed its 135th consecutive hour of playing what is widely regarded in gaming communities as the most boring video game ever made—*Desert Bus*. Many of LoadingReadyRun's members had been up for more than 24 hours by the time their quest was over.

The comedy group raised close to \$140,000 through the event, called Desert Bus for Hope (DBfH) for Child's Play—a charity that donates video games, books, money, and toys to sick children in hospitals around the world.

"The success of DBfH this year was so beyond what we were expecting, I barely have words for it," says Kathleen De Vere, a member of LoadingReadyRun. "We are all so incredibly proud and happy to have been able to do this, and be so successful."

The challenge of DBfH was simple. The more people donated to Child's Play, the longer the LoadingReadyRun team had to play *Desert Bus*. Money was also raised through charity auctions and by accepting dares for donations such as singing, re-enacting scenes from web comics, and going to see *New Moon* in the theatre while wearing eyeliner and tight pants.

Child's Play benefits children's hospitals around the world, including the BC Children's Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children in Ontario, and the Janeway Children's Hospital in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Mike Krahulik and Jerry Holkins, founders of the web comic *Penny Arcade*, formed the organization in 2003 to provide the video-game community a chance to give back and change negative perceptions of gamers.

"I truly believe that geeks like us are actually more generous and philanthropic than a standard-issue human."

KATHLEEN DE VERE
LOADINGREADYRUN

Desert Bus, a mini-game from the unreleased *Smoke and Mirrors* video game—created by comedy duo Penn and Teller—is a commentary on overly realistic video games.

In it, the player must drive a bus from Tucson to Las Vegas in real time, for eight hours down a bare, straight, desert road.

Players can't pause or put the controller down because the bus veers slightly to the right if not cor-

rected. Once a player reaches Las Vegas, he or she earns one point, at which point the bus turns around to drive for another eight hours.

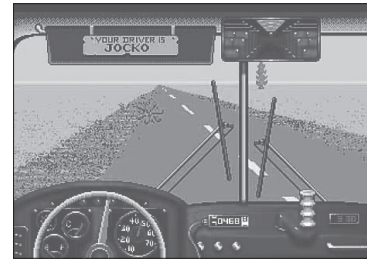
The world record before 2009's event was six points—also set by LoadingReadyRun—and was set this year at 14 points before driver Bill Watt lost control of the bus while trying to sing Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now" for a donation.

According to De Vere, the event, now in its third year, has been gaining steam ever since its inception.

"Our first year, people were sort of amused at what we were doing, but also very confused," she says. "This year, the Internet basically cracked its collective knuckles and went wild."

Fans of the Victoria comedy troupe organized a "craft-along" drive to make items for auction, and other donation items included custom sketches from Schuster-award-winning artist Ken Steacy, signed artist proofs of his work in comics, a prop Bionic Commando arm, and a *Fallout 3* Vault Dweller's suit.

But it was the link between the fans and the event that took it beyond a regular donation drive. It was filled with numerous side storylines, such as the instant internet celebrity of the fan known only as Octopimp, who won several auctions by donating over \$9,000, and the constant shaming of LoadingReadyRun member Matt Wiggins for refusing to accept a challenge (he later was forced by a challenge to see *New Moon* four times in a single day, which he has done).



The dullest video game of all time.

One fan even used the event to propose, donating \$20 to have his marriage proposal to another fan posted on the event's webcast overlay. (She accepted.)

"I think DBfH really shows how amazing gamers are," says De Vere. "I truly believe that geeks like us are actually more generous and philanthropic than a standard-issue human. After this year, I am starting to suspect that the people who helped, donated, watched, and encouraged us are actually superhuman."

"This year DBfH represented what a wonderful place the Internet could really be, and how generous and amazing individuals can be when they come together," adds De Vere. "DBfH really is about hope."

The team was comprised of many current and former students from the University of Victoria.

Although those who work with LoadingReadyRun full-time completed work beforehand to clear up their schedule, most of the volunteers took vacation to suffer exhaustion.

"What drove us?" says De Vere. "It was for the children, the whole time."

NEWS BRIEFS

BY SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

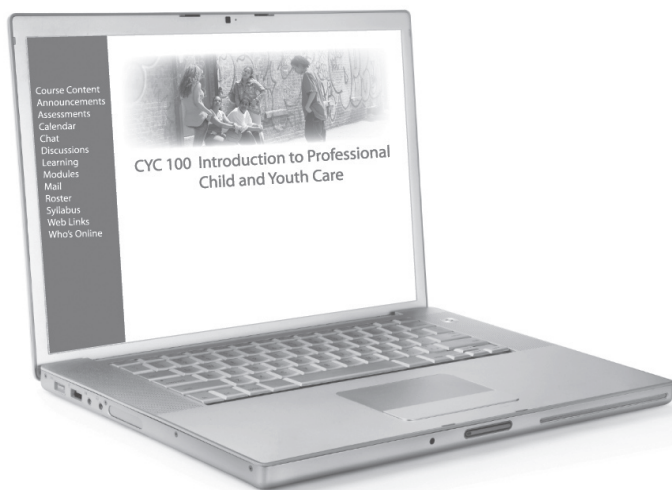
In light of the BC government's arts funding cuts the 2010 Luminara Lantern Festival is on shaky ground. The Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) has concerns that the festival, now in its tenth year, has some major retooling to go through if it's to continue into the decade ahead. "We're now feeling the effects of the broader economy on the organizations which have been able to support the festival in the past," says ICA executive director Jean McRae. "Over the past few months we've seen almost half of our potential funding either disappear or the timelines have been pushed back to the point where we won't be able to access funds in time for a July festival." ICA isn't going to give up the fight and is looking at some serious changes in the makeup and operation of the Luminara Festival; visit luminaravictoria.com to show your support and find out what you can do to help rage against the dying of the light.

Vindicating the fashion victim

A couple of blokes from T-dot, Dylan Ferguson and Aram Melkoumov, want you to wear their clothes and to feel unconventional and special, too. It seems these recent U of T grads want to market trendy clothes to trendy types with a new angle that nobody has ever tried before—tagging clothing with an individual's fingerprints, lip-marks, and prints of the wearers' DNA strands. They are capitalizing on viral trendsetting and hot, scantily clad models (probably on loan from American Apparel)—feel free to peruse identityapparel.com and take a boo for yourself. With three lines of their self-described "biological clothing" about to hit the streets under the mysterious monikers of DNA, Fingerprint, and Kiss, this attire may take awhile to tire. With cool, individualized designs and sexy cuts these lads might not be offering much that's new clothing-wise, but their "biological" print spin could pull you in. So, Oscar de la Renta, put that in your pipe and smoke it!

The Grammys recognize Canada

The 52nd annual Grammy Awards nominations were announced in early December on a televised concert that was hosted by LL Cool J. Yes, the ladies love cool James, apparently, and the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) take the whole shebang rather seriously. With a dozen Canadian acts, including Michael Bubl , Diana Krall, Nickelback, and Neil Young, garnering several nominations it seems like big, boring acts like Seal and U2 may be getting a run for their residuals come awards night. Yawn! In related news, the same overplayed Canadians that get nominated every year at the Junos are sure to be nominated again at the 2010 Juno Awards nominee announcements in early March. Visit the CARAS website at carasonline.ca for more information.



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Toastmasters sharpens speaking skills

CHERYLANN NESBITT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students have an intense fear of public speaking and sweat at the idea of doing a class presentation. Camosun's Toastmasters club can help by offering a place for students and faculty to learn how to deal with nerves and to practice and improve public-speaking skills.

Toastmasters originally formed in California in 1942 as an organization for businessmen. By 1973 it went co-ed and now boasts 24 locations in North America; it's been in Victoria for almost seven years and an offshoot group on campus has been going strong for the past few years.

Anyone can become a member of Toastmasters or simply drop in for a free session. Toastmasters offers the opportunity to work on speaking in public and teaches techniques for presenting yourself with confidence.

Dan Doherty, founder of the Lansdowne and Interurban Toastmasters groups, has been with the organization for seven years.

"I was tired of being scared of speaking in public. I'm not scared anymore."

GIZELLE KNIGHT
EX-CAMOSUN STUDENT

"I've always enjoyed being on stage and used Toastmasters to refine my skills," says Doherty. "I almost always feel nervous before I speak because I want to provide good value. I use that energy to add spark to my presentation."

Ex-Camosun student Gizelle Knight has been a club member for just over a year. Knight joined

because she had a fear of public speaking and felt it was holding her back from progressing her career.

"I was tired of being scared," says Knight, who is now able to speak with confidence. "I'm not scared anymore."

Knight continues to attend Camosun Toastmasters meetings regularly, for the friends she's made there and the fun they have together.

"You never know what's going to happen; that's what makes it so exciting," says Knight.

Toastmasters is an official Camosun College Student Society club funded by membership fees and donations. After three free sessions those attending decide whether or not they wish to continue with the group.

To become a member there's an initial fee of \$40 and a monthly fee of \$8 for Camosun students and \$10 for non-students.



Students in Toastmasters learn to speak in public without fear.

Court rules universities can charge parking fines

ANDREW BATES
CUP WESTERN BUREAU CHIEF

KELOWNA, BC (CUP)—BC students might want to pick up a parking pass soon, as the provincial Court of Appeal has granted UBC's appeal to a Supreme Court decision that challenged universities' ability to give out parking tickets.

The decision comes after the provincial legislature passed Bill 13, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, in October, retroactively legalizing UBC's parking regulations.

Camp Fiorante Matthews, who have represented plaintiff Dan Barbour since he initiated a class-action lawsuit against UBC in 2005, announced the appeal result on their website.

The statement says that on Nov. 25 the BC Court of Appeal allowed the school's appeal of the trial judgment "because of the effect Bill 13 has on the legal issues in the case."

"The amendments to the legislation affirm that institutions do have the authority to regulate vehicle traffic and parking on their property," wrote Moira Stillwell, the BC minister for advanced education, in a statement. "Government's view was that public postsecondary institutions always had authority over these matters."

In March, the BC Supreme Court ruled in regards to a class action lawsuit brought about by Barbour, a Vancouver accountant, who had his vehicle towed for ac-

cumulated parking tickets while going to his dentist at UBC. The Supreme Court ruled that UBC had been going above and beyond the powers allocated to it in the University Act.

According to Barbour, the Oct. 29 legislation and subsequent Nov. 25 ruling were disappointing, but not surprising.

"Government's view was that public postsecondary institutions always had authority over parking."

MOIRA STILLWELL
BC MINISTER FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION

"It wasn't unanticipated, [but] what I had hoped for was that the provincial government would modify the regulations so that it gave natural justice to the process," says Barbour. "They just, virtually, said, 'Whatever you've been doing in the past is alright now.' That, I found, was extremely disappointing."

Barbour raised a number of concerns with the current state of parking at UBC Vancouver, citing the lack of a traffic court similar to municipal structure and a system, he says, which puts the onus on him to contact the university to see if he

has been assessed a ticket.

"That's always been my intention of what this behaviour is all about, trying to modify the university's behaviour," he says.

Minister Stilwell notes that universities are autonomous, and can set their own regulations.

Barbour questioned the logic of covering the actions of universities as autonomous bodies via retroactive legislation. "Traditionally, retroactive legislation was there to allow the government to protect itself, not other parties. Where does it stop?" he asks. "Do logging companies, or the mining companies, or anybody who's influential enough with the provincial government, do they now get an opportunity to go to the government and say, 'Look, we've been doing this wrong all this time, but we'd like some retroactive legislation that says it's okay?'"

Stillwell defended the government's decision to make the bill retroactive.

"[It] will ensure that current and future users will not be negatively impacted by institutions having to pay back fines that were collected in the past," she says, noting that UBC might have had to pay up to \$4 million in refunds.

"If the amendments are not made retroactive, it is estimated this would cost our institutions millions in refunds—money that would have to come from other important programs and services provided to students," says Stillwell.

The legislation and decision



Universities can now legally give out parking tickets on campus.

spells the end for a number of parallel class-action lawsuits that had begun around the province against different universities. The Court of Appeal has not yet issued written reasons for its decision, and Barbour notes that depending on what the reasons say, there might be grounds for an appeal.

"I'm waiting to see what the words say in the judgment, whether they have completely cut this thing off at the knees or not," he says. "My suspicion is they have, that the panel of the Court of Appeal wasn't particularly sympathetic to the entire lawsuit, so I just have to wait and see."

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Speed dating not just for the desperate

EMILY LAING

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The dating scene for students can bring confusion and uncertainties, but it's worth it—finding love may change a person's perception of life. And time-crunched students have more than just the traditional avenues available to search for romance.

Speed dating is a logical approach for students with time constraints; it can also be an effective dating method, as opposed to another unsuccessful blind date or trusting an online dating profile.

"We see people really connect," says Jeremy Coules, director of membership services at Icebreakerz, a speed-dating company. "Some people don't necessarily find love, but they make new friends or start business relationships... it's a great place to expand your social network."

The allure of speed dating lies in its no-nonsense approach. The dating fad has men and women gathering with accoutrements including score cards, name tags, and suggested questions as enthralling as "which Sesame Street character would you want to be your neighbour?"

As the evening progresses, par-

ticipants check off on index cards whether or not they find the prospective suitor of interest. The idea is just crazy enough to work... and attract students.

"I wanted to see if it was really like all the cliché situations we see in the movies," says University of Victoria writing student Natalie North. "And, yes, it really was."

"There's no time to be nervous."

NATALIE NORTH
UVIC STUDENT

North became curious about the fad after watching popular films and TV shows glamorize this style of dating. She decided to approach speed dating with an anthropological perspective while supporting her friend's speed-dating charity fundraiser event.

"It's wildly entertaining," says North. "This provided me with so much writing material. Humans are hilarious; so much comedy was bouncing off the walls."

But not everyone finds it funny—for many people the thought of preparing for multiple, fast-paced

dates can be especially nerve-wracking. Conversely, it can be a great experience for those who struggle in vulnerable situations.

"There's no time to be nervous," says North.

With regards to conversation starters for speed dating, background questions such as previous travel endeavours, former education, and family history are safe bets, according to Coules.

Avoiding controversial topics such as politics or religion may save a person from grief, as these topics may cause a clash between the two parties. Also, brushing up on current events and pop culture may provide some interesting topics to fill those awkward pauses, he says.

"We provide people with backup questions to keep the conversation from going flat," says Coules.

While first impressions are certainly important in speed dating, the key to having a good time is to relax and keep an open mind. Even for the most confident of individuals, speed dating can be a personal struggle if the conversation starts to fail.

But this style of dating has the advantage of a fast pace, so people never feel cornered in uncomfortable situations for long.

For students who are search-



The countdown to romance could begin with some speed dating.

ing for romance, or just wanting to network with likeminded people, speed dating may provide all the ingredients for a lasting success.

"If I were to throw myself into another contrived dating situation," says North, "it would probably be speed dating."

Recyclistas a bicycle's BFF

ALEX PASK

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When living in a small city like Victoria, riding a bike as a main mode of transportation makes a nice alternative to packed busses of coughing commuters or sitting in traffic during rush hour.

Brand-new bikes can be expensive, so knowing how to shop for a previously owned bike and how to fix it, or at least spot future problems, is a good way to get the most out of your ride.

Recyclistas is a community bicycle shop that strives to promote empowerment through education. Since 2005, the shop, located just off the Galloping Goose Trail on 25 Crease Avenue, beside Town and Country Mall, has been teaching Victoria's cyclists more than a thing or two about bikes.

"There are so many good bikes out there; all they need are some good parts."

VERENA MCRAE
PACIFIC RIM STUDENT

They offer DIY classes twice a week where people can learn how to fix their bicycles, as well as access the bike-specific tools needed to do their own tuning. These classes are \$20 and run for three hours.

"If you want a tune-up, if you want to overhaul it, or if you just need the tools to do a little fixing, we're there to offer that knowledge," says Trianne Tambay, who has been a bike mechanic at Recyclistas for the past four years.

The friendly atmosphere of Recyclistas is perfect for people



Recyclistas is a local, community-minded bike shop.

who are just starting to search for a bicycle to call their own.

"They prepared me to look for a bike on my own, even if I didn't go straight through them, which I really appreciated," says UVIC student Amanda Hoffman.

Upon Hoffman's first visit to the shop she was shown how to spot the little things when looking at possible bike options. Everything was discussed, from sizing tests, to ways she could recognize if the bike had been in an accident.

After shopping around, Hoffman came back to Recyclistas and talked about what kind of bike she was looking for. She continued to work with them to find her ideal bike.

"Something came up and, since they knew what I was looking for, they held onto a bike for me and fixed it up for a reasonable price," says Hoffman.

The building that houses Recyclistas is dripping with bike art and acts as an island for misfit bikes.

"There are so many good bikes

out there; all they need are some good parts," says Pacific Rim student Verena McRae.

McRae was disappointed with other bike suppliers' prices and lack of previously owned bikes before going to Recyclistas.

"It was affordable and they were reusing bikes," McRae says.

Recyclistas is the only used-bike shop in Victoria that completely refurbishes their bicycles. Since the bikes have been reconditioned before being sold they're a safer and more unique option, which costs less in repairs.

The mechanics at Recyclistas are eager to show even the most inexperienced cyclists how to become more confident in their bicycle knowledge.

The shop even offers a work trade option for those who don't have the money to spend on bike repairs, but who still desire to expand their understanding of how bikes work.

"We are here," says Tambay, "to de-mystify the bicycle."

Hospital food goes on examination table

LEILA FARLEY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Food is an integral part of keeping healthy. So it only makes sense that the healthiest food would be found in places geared towards rehabilitating people back to good health—hospitals. But a general disdain from the public via substandard hospital food indicates otherwise.

A popular online blog, *Better Hospital Food*, created by Victoria resident Bernard Von Schulmann, takes a closer look at the poor nutritional quality of food served in hospitals.

Upon seeing the meals his wife was served at the Victoria General Hospital (VGH), Von Schulmann decided to do more than just scare others with hospital-food horror stories.

His plan was to convince the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) that good food is just as integral to the healing process as medicine or any other therapy.

Von Schulmann's blog has many contributors, who are outraged by the, as one contributor puts it, "inedible slop" offered up at hospitals. The food is "not fit for human consumption," as another hospital-patient contributor says on the site.

The blog also sports a gallery of photos people have taken of their hospital food. Only a small number of people on the blog praise their hospitals for taking the initiative and cooking up some good, ol' healing grub.

"People are right to be concerned about hospital food," says clinical nurse Stephen Bishop, also the head of the Nursing program at Camosun.

According to Bishop, hospitals in Victoria ran their own food services up until a few years ago.

Due to budget limitations they now contract out a business to do it for them, the result of which finds food prepared with less attention paid to nutrition.

"Food is prepared with a view to making it generally nutritious, but not spending a whole lot of time or energy really looking at the nutrition," says Bishop. "Cost effectiveness would be a primary concern."

"People are right to be concerned about hospital food."

STEPHEN BISHOP
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

Food services at VGH run Monday to Friday at regular office hours. This is unfortunate for patients and stressed families brought in late at night and for staff.

After office hours patients and health-care workers have nowhere left to turn but to vending machines for sustenance.

Bishop says a food service that emphasizes fresh vegetables and fruit while being locally and environmentally conscious would be ideal.

He says it's a large order but would pay off in the end.

"It would actually, in the long term," says Bishop, "give a return both in terms of the health of the patients and improve healing time through better attention to nutrition."

Students discover delights of diving

NATHAN LINFORD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Finding an outdoors sport or activity to feel passionate about isn't always an easy task. But there are certain activities that, once discovered, people can call their own, something they will never find dull.

Some students have found that enjoyment and the accompanying excitement through scuba diving.

“Diving is not for the faint of heart. Some underwater creatures can scare the shit out of you.”

THOMAS ACHESON
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Nicole Mandryk, a full-time Science student at Camosun College, has done just that. She's been diving off Ogden Point regularly for the past six months. Mandryk first learned to dive in Vietnam, where she earned her diver's certification.

“It's an adrenaline rush,” says Mandryk about diving. “It's a new experience every time; it's never the same.”

Mandryk says diving is a great hobby and a popular pastime, for students in particular.

“Ogden Point sees a lot of students coming to dive in search of relaxation and an awesome experience,” she says.

To give an idea of how rich that experience can be, here's how a recent day of diving went down for



Scuba diving is a great way for students to relax, find some new thrills, and get up close and personal with neat little sea creatures.

Mandryk. It started early, with the scuba gear being prepared according to the length and amount of dives that were to be done, in this case two.

The divers—usually between eight to 10—loaded themselves into a boat. The dive location was Race Rocks, an environmental zone; there is no anchoring allowed.

The divers were dropped off close to the wall so they could grip it easily. Since the currents are so strong this must be done to

avoid anyone getting swept away. One person remains in the boat while the divers start their underwater journey amongst reefs and sand-beds teeming with ocean life.

The diving around Vancouver Island is much different than in tropical locations due to currents and water temperature. Ogden Point offers a safe haven for beginner divers because the currents there are limited.

Unfortunately, despite all this

excitement and fun, many students who are interested in diving are often driven off by its expense.

But if there's a way to make it happen financially, it's a hobby worth pursuing... if you can handle the thrills.

“Diving is not for the faint of heart,” says Thomas Acheson, a University Transfer student at Camosun. “Some underwater creatures can scare the shit out of you.”

Acheson has been diving for two

years; he acquired his diving licence while on vacation in Thailand. He says it's a great way to relieve stress and take his mind off of everything else that's going on in life.

Going underwater is like entering a whole new place—there's so much to discover.

Students can start the journey by looking at the Facebook page for the Camosun Scuba Club; though defunct, there are active members of the group who still frequent the page.

Olympic hockey's best?

KRISTIAN DART
STAFF WRITER

The recent announcement of the Canadian men's Olympic hockey team has caused some controversy, and rightfully so.

How could it not when NHL scoring is dominated by Canadian players, and when most Canadian hockey fans believe they could put together a stronger team?

Shoe-in forwards Sidney Crosby, Ryan Getzlaf, Joe Thornton, Rick Nash, Dany Heatley, and Jarome Iginla all made the cut, to no one's surprise.

But the rest of the forwards seem to have been selected with chemistry—not offensive dominance—being the top priority.

Patrick Marleau, who plays on the most dazzling NHL offensive line with Thornton and Heatley, was selected to keep the scoring machine running, while Corey Perry will play with teammate Getzlaf.

Patrice Bergeron, the most controversial player selected, was chosen because he once played on a productive line with Crosby during international play.

But anybody who plays with Crosby is going to be productive; keep your stick on the ice and Sid the Kid will find it.

Absurdly, Vincent Lecavalier was left off the list. Vinny had a slow start but he should absolutely have been chosen over Bergeron and Jonathan Toews.

A young defensive core was selected to shut down some of the world's elite players, and again chemistry seems to have driven the choice. Not surprisingly, Scott Niedermayer was selected to play, and also as team captain.

Chicago defensive pair Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook will stay intact on Team Canada so they can continue shutting down the world's best players.

And 20-year-old Drew Doughty is being touted as the next Niedermayer and should be helping Canada win championships for at least the next 10 years.

Dan Boyle, Shea Weber, and Chris Pronger will round out the defensive core.

The Calgary Flames' Jay Bouwmeester and Dion Phaneuf were justifiably left off the list for their inconsistent play this season.

But, in a ridiculous decision, the NHL's top scoring defenseman, Mike Green, was shunned. Green has 38 points in 39 games this season and is an unnatural force on the power play. Not selecting Green is Canada's greatest mistake.

There were no surprises with Team Canada's goalie selections. It's a trio of the NHL's best netminders—Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo, and Marc-Andre Fleury.

If Canada wins gold, fans will be drunk on success for weeks. Otherwise the team's selection will be debated for the next four years.

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THE BOOK BURN

Tackling textbook tyranny

KELTIE LARTER
STAFF WRITER

The words “student” and “broke” have become synonyms. School is expensive and most students are too busy studying for exams and writing 18-page essays to work full-time jobs. So, at the beginning of each semester, it’s no wonder students stagger away from the campus bookstore feeling dazed and a little bit sick, having spent hundreds of dollars they can’t afford on textbooks they can’t afford *not* to have.

And once the nausea subsides, anger sets in.

Students rail at the unjustness of it all, certain that somehow they have been taken advantage of by book publishing companies who are filling their already deep pockets with the grocery money of those just trying to get an education.

Students feel helpless, because the tradeoff for not purchasing the required textbooks is often a failing grade.

The complaint department

Patrick Moulday, a University Transfer student at Camosun, is just one of the many students feeling the crunch. He spent close to \$700 on textbooks last semester.

“I feel like I’ve been gouged,” says Moulday. “The prices are... they’re just enormous. I can barely pay my rent and feed myself, let alone pay \$700 for books.”

“The customers have to buy the book. They’re not buying them because they want them; they’re buying them because they need them.”

RICHARD DAVIES
ABEBOOKS.COM

Moulday tries to use online resources as often as possible to ease the strain on his finances.

“I find myself on Wikipedia more often than I’m looking in a book,” says Moulday. “Wikipedia becomes your best friend.”

Robert Leaf, Camosun College’s interim bookstore manager, says students complain about textbook costs on a regular basis. Leaf has been in the book-publishing industry for 34 years and says the high cost of textbooks is often justified.

“There’s an awful lot of research and development that goes into the publishing of a textbook,” says Leaf. “It often costs a publisher about \$100,000 to bring a book to market. Academic integrity is important, so before publishers publish a book, they send out hundreds of reading copies, and they pay people who are academics in the same field to assess them.”

Leaf explains that a lot of auxiliary costs are built into the price of a textbook.

“For example, if an instructor wants to use Campbell’s biology, they also often require overheads, test banks, instructor manuals, solution manuals designed for instructors... All of these things are quite expensive when they’re put together, but they’re provided because that’s part of the publisher’s relationship with the instructor,” says Leaf. “The publisher provides as many materials as they can to support the teaching experience.”

According to the US National Association of College Stores, 12 percent of book sales go to the authors/editors, 23 percent to the retail stores, and 65 percent to the publishing companies. In Canada, the authors/editors get slightly less while the stores and publishers get slightly more.

Blame it on used books

The cost of producing a textbook is not the only factor affecting the cost of buying it. According to Leaf, a large part of the problem lies with the existence of the used-book market.

“The pricing reflects the fact that it’s more or less a one-shot deal for publishers,” he says. “Once a publisher publishes a textbook, those copies are out there, and suddenly there’s a used-book market, which cuts down dramatically on new-book sales.”

Richard Davies, press and publicity manager for the online used-book market AbeBooks, disagrees. He believes that the used-book market is not substantial enough to drastically affect the publishing industry.

“There is a shortage of used textbooks across North America,” says Davies. “A lot of students don’t sell their books back because they’re offered a very low price, so they think, bugger it, I’ll just keep it under my bed.”

Davies also argues that the textbook publishing industry enjoys a unique situation when it comes to selling books.

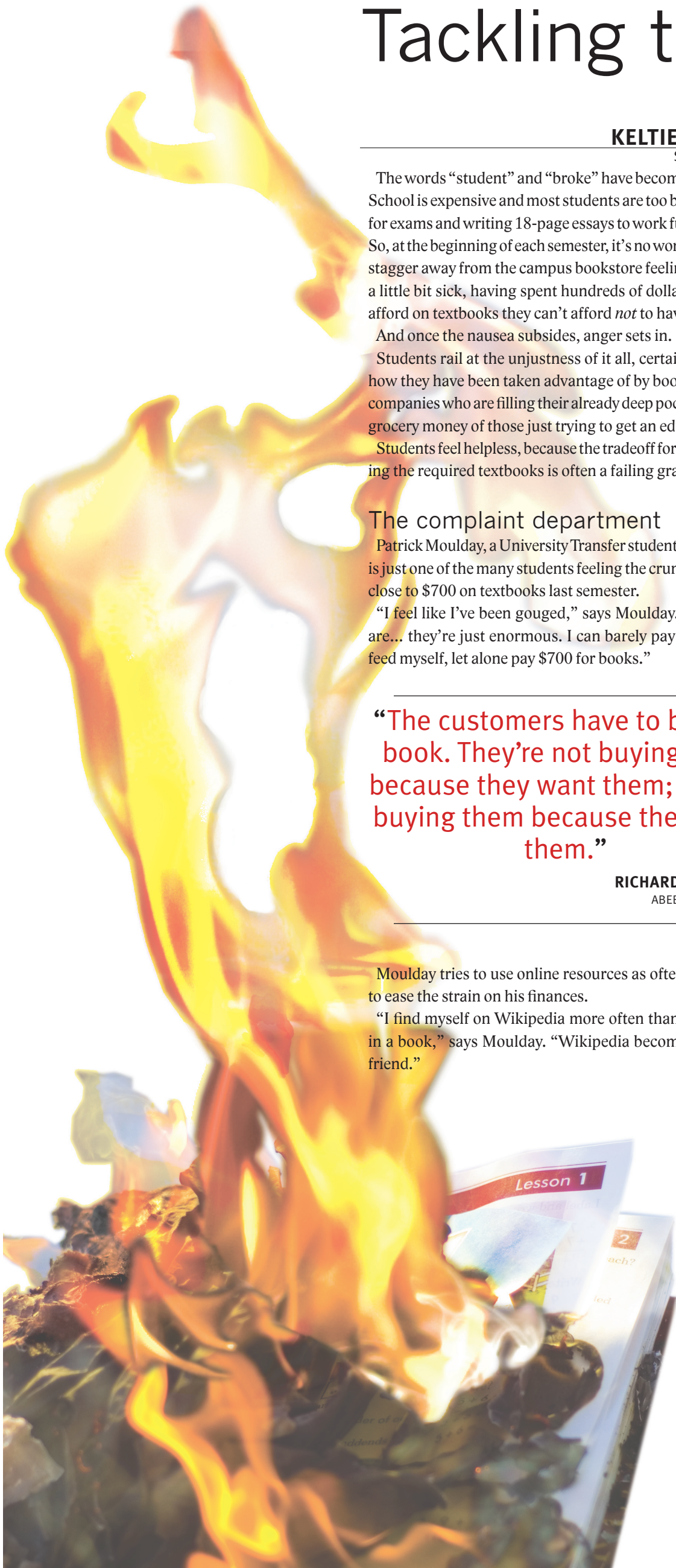
“The customers have to buy the book,” says Davies. “They’re not buying them because they want them; they’re buying them because they need them. And they have to buy at certain times of the year. Immediately, that puts a lot of power into the hands of the publishers.”

In economic terms, this is known as “inelastic demand.” The less elastic the demand for something is, the more people are willing to buy it, despite the cost. It’s like how BC Hydro charges people for electricity and hot water. They’re not forcing anyone to buy it, but the option is learning to love cold showers and reading by candlelight.

Those damned new editions!

Melanie Solanges, a University Transfer student, says textbook prices aren’t the only problem.

“Publishing companies are always coming out with new editions that have almost no updated content,” says Solanges.



“It really makes me angry because all they’ve done is add in a sentence or two here and there and changed around the order of the pages, and then I’m expected to spend \$100 on the new book instead of buying a used book.”

Hilary Sandford, a Geography instructor at Camosun, agrees. She calls the textbook publishing industry a “racket” and says she resents the fact that publishers reprint every few years, effectively eliminating a second-hand market.

“As the instructor, I’m the only person who reads the thing and who knows how slight the changes really were and that it totally didn’t warrant a whole reprinting,” says Sandford. “It took me a few years to figure that out, and then I was ticked.”

“The teacher says you need it, the bookstore tells you you need it, and the little voice inside your head says, ‘Really? Do I really need this?’ And then you buy the textbook and it hangs out as academic decoration in your locker for most of the semester.”

ERIN SANDERSON
CAMOSUN STUDENT

Like some students, Sandford is turning to online sources as learning aids. She tries her best to not use textbooks in her courses, relying on online resources instead.

“I can show the students a zillion example maps, photos, and images from the web for free instead of having them spend \$120 on a small paperback textbook that will show them a few example images from the continental United States, and not Canada,” she says.

Environmental Tech student Erin Sanderson says, to top it all off, sometimes recommended texts aren’t even used. “The crappiest part of buying textbooks is when the teacher says you need it, the bookstore tells you you need it, and the little voice inside your head says, ‘Really? Do I really need this?’ And then you buy the textbook and it hangs out as academic decoration in your locker for most of the semester.”

Julie Alexander, a Physics instructor for the Engineering Bridge program at Camosun’s Interurban campus, recommends that her students buy a textbook which retails at almost \$200 new. She says that although she thinks the book is very good, her students find it prohibitively expensive—and the new editions aren’t helping.

“I am not happy that the publishers have now come out with an eighth edition when I’ve only been using the seventh edition for three years,” she says.

Because of the cost of the textbook, Alexander says the physics department is looking into alternative methods of getting the pertinent information to students.

Defending the beast

Gabrielle Maunier, marketing coordinator for Broadview Press, admits that publishing companies use reprints as a means of generating added income, but maintains that they have little choice.

“Although we do not print new editions every year or two, the main reason that other publishers do is to combat the

used-book market. Used-book sales take a real chunk out of the publisher’s market,” she says.

Leaf from the Camosun Bookstore agrees that there’s not much that publishing companies can do to generate extra income besides printing new editions.

“What would you do if you were a publisher and, essentially, you could only sell your book once?” says Leaf.

He adds, however, that costs to students are kept in mind when instructors ask to order in new editions.

“We don’t automatically order that edition for them. We ask the instructors or the department, ‘Have you had a look at it? Can we get the publisher to send you a mock copy, chapters, table of contents? Do you really need a new edition?’ Essentially, we put the onus back onto the instructor or the department,” explains Leaf.

Of course, sometimes it’s more necessary than others to be creating new editions of a textbook. Leaf says it depends on the subject.

“Medical books and legal books can be different because the material that’s being updated could be really important,” he says.

Elizabeth Hulbert, associate chair of Camosun’s Nursing program, agrees medical books must be up to date.

“The information in a medical textbook is usually five years old by the time it gets published, so we’re pushed to come out with the latest edition because it has the latest research information. This is a research-based program, so we have to stay current,” she says.

Hulbert says students in the nursing program can expect to pay over \$1,000 for textbooks in each of their first two years in the program. But she says the department is very conscious of the cost of the books.

“What would you do if you were a publisher and, essentially, you could only sell your book once?”

ROBERT LEAF
CAMOSUN COLLEGE

“Our textbooks are chosen by a group that get together and they look at course requirements, the latest texts that have come out, and the revisions that they’re making. At that point they make their recommendations. It’s done very carefully,” she says.

So students are left with a conundrum. If they buy used textbooks, are they shooting themselves in the foot when publishing companies have to sell new books for higher prices because sales numbers go down?

Or is it better to protest by refusing to buy new copies altogether? And would that force publishers to lower their prices, or would textbooks become even more expensive?

Hulbert says the choice comes down to the individual student, but she does offer a reminder that times are changing. When students buy a new textbook nowadays, she says, they are often getting more for their money than just a book.

“A textbook is no longer just a textbook,” says Hulbert. “It’s got a whole lot of different things attached to it, and an awful lot of it is through the computer. When students purchase a new textbook, they get access to all of the perks, online tutorials, explanations, and test questions. If they purchase a used textbook, they don’t.”

SOME WAYS TO SAVE MONEY ON BOOKS

Go to the library

Most instructors will have ordered at least one copy of each required textbook to be put on reserve in the library. If you run over there right now, there might still be a copy left.

Buy used books

By doing this, you may be helping drive new-textbook prices through the roof. But at least this purchase will be cheaper, and, as a bonus, reusing books means less waste.

Use a previous edition

Instead of buying the brand-new edition, check out the table of contents on a previous, less expensive, edition of the same textbook. Most of the time you should find most of the same content, just in a different order. Talk to your instructor to find out if there’s any pertinent info in the new edition that you’ll be missing out on, and then just take out a reserve copy of the new edition to get the missing pages.

Buy a scanner

We can’t condone this particular tip, but we suppose someone could buy a scanner and scan entire pages from textbooks. Students could either borrow a textbook from a classmate, use one of the library reserve books, or buy the one they need from the bookstore and then return it (again, we’re not condoning such actions). Although this option does involve investing money in a scanner and a significant investment of time, it could pay for itself in the first semester.

Sell your used books

There are lots of different ways to go about doing this; here are just a few. First of all, the bookstore does buybacks for a couple of days at the end of each semester. If you happen to have a text that they’re going to need again the next semester, they’ll give you 50 percent of the price you paid for it. If, however, they are not using your textbook in the next semester, or you miss the buyback days on campus, you’re probably better off trying to sell it online. It’s important to remember that most online book selling websites take a commission of your sale. To avoid paying fees, try to find book-selling sites that don’t charge fees. Another great way to make money off of used textbooks is by posting an ad on usedvictoria.com, craigslist.com, or by putting up posters on corkboards around campus.

Group shows different side of poetry

MATTEUS CLEMENT

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When the words “poetry” and “readings” are put together, it doesn’t always conjure up pretty images. For example, it’s easy—very easy, in Victoria—to think of a group of over-feeling hippies getting into a room and sharing their feelings through spoken word. But that’s not always the case.

Enter Missie Peters and Not Your Grandmother’s Poetry Productions (NYGP). Peters is a member of Tongues of Fire, a Victoria-based poetry community group, as well as a three-time veteran of *Poetry in the Raw*, a nude poetry slam.

“Spoken word can be one-dimensional at times; the vision of NYGP is to create a multidimensional, high-production, value show that appeals to all the senses,” says Peters.

Peters is no stranger to the local spoken-word scene. She was part of the Victoria team in the recent Canadian Festival of Spoken Word (CFSW), which took place in Victoria in November, and now she hopes to put on a local spoken-word event every two months.

“The talent is out there and CFSW showed there was an appetite for it,” says Peters. “We want to work with artists and help them produce something that is to the next level. We want to up the game. The power of the piece is in the performance. That is what separates a poetry reading from a poetry slam.”

NYGP will showcase local artists such as painters, craft-makers,

and digital-media enthusiasts who will be active the whole time of the show.

“The idea is to showcase the talent and engage the mind the whole time so people feel like they left a production, not just a show,” says Peters.

Rather than an open house, Peters is focusing on producing with artists who come to the auditions. She wants to have a show that has a theme, but not with overlapping material. The quality control will not be in who’s “bad” and who’s “good” but, rather, who’s willing to work on their piece and take it to the next level.

“The power of the piece is in the performance. That is what separates a poetry reading from a poetry slam.”

MISSIE PETERS

NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER’S
POETRY

“It’s time to go big or go home,” says Peters.

And the group is tackling some interesting themes as well. For example, NYGP’s first poetry slam has the very geek-friendly working title of *8-Bit Poetry—A Dedication to Video Games*.

“Video games have touched all of us, some more than others,” says



Missie Peters of Not Your Grandmother’s Poetry gets serenaded by cohort David Morris.

Peters. “We all remember playing some video game that we enjoyed and some people love it more than others. Like, who ever noticed that

Zelda was left-handed? There is a lore in video games that has become the mythology to some of us in the 21st century. Just look at the popu-

larity of *World of Warcraft*.”

Not Your Grandmother’s Poetry will host their first show on Feb. 17 at the Victoria Event Centre.



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BIG SCREEN REVIEW



Avatar



ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

James Cameron’s *Avatar* is a technological marvel of movie-making that, unfortunately, has more pizzazz than substance.

The 3D effects are okay to a seasoned 3D moviegoer, but the creature designs are what really stand out. They look like ideas from French artist Moebius’ imagination.

That’s the only selling point to a relatively simple film about an impending war. The mystic meaning of the film’s title is interesting, but not fully explored. Video gamers know an avatar is a graphical representation of a computer user, but in Hindu religion, an avatar is a humanoid incarnation of a higher power.

In the movie, former soldier Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) is a paraplegic who fulfills both definitions of an avatar. He loves the experience of getting his legs back, but it isn’t permanent.

He’s piloting an avatar in the form of a giant, blue cat-like humanoid—a Na’vi—and is quick to integrate with it. He’s soon ordered to find others of his

kind and get friendly with them. When Sully finally meets the alien Neytiri (Zoë Saldana), he gets new orders from Colonel Quaritch (Stephan Lang) and Parker Selfridge (Giovanni Ribisi).

The Na’vi are to relocate so the Earth team can mine the planet’s mineral resource to repower Earth. Predictably, Sully has to decide where his heart is, which leads to an all-out battle.

The supporting characters aren’t as interesting because not enough time is spent rounding out their motives; they’re cast into archetypal roles.

And what is left is a movie with a mediocre message of “Please save my planet.”

Sherlock Holmes



ED SUM

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Robert Downey Jr. was on fire when he took on the role of Iron Man, one of Marvel Comics’ mighty heroes, but as Sherlock Holmes, that flame has fizzled.

With British director Guy Ritchie at the helm, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s source material is acknowledged with some respect, but it

doesn’t encompass everything that is Sherlockian. For instance, there’s no narrative from Dr. Watson (Jude Law) that’s commonly found in Doyle’s fiction.

At least the era is properly interpreted, showcasing high society’s secret interest in the supernatural.

Doyle would agree with the movie’s nod to Holmes’ brief romantic interlude with Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams), but wouldn’t to the buddy-film pairing of Holmes and Watson.

The Hollywood-style treatment of the two, occasionally at odds with each other, just doesn’t work.

When the pair is working together, they have a mystery of a resurrected man to solve—Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong) beat death and is back to create a new world order.

For many filmgoers Basil Rathbone, star of 14 Sherlock Holmes films between 1939 and 1946, with his deerstalker cap and Inverness cape, is the definitive detective.

Combined with the Holmes legacy of being one of Britain’s greatest heroes of the Victorian Age, Downey Jr. is left with some big shoes to fill.

But with his charm and panache, he does make the role uniquely his, a highlight of this uneven movie.

Catching up with Casiotone

SHANE SCOTT-TRAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Searching for existential meaning in modern pop music is almost always like doing a backward takeoff into an empty kiddie pool. By contrast, Casiotone for the Painfully Alone (CFTPA)—the nom de plume for Portland’s Owen Ashworth—dives straight into the deep end and manages to make a sweet splash.

“Writing and recording songs is one of my favourite things to do,” says Ashworth. “I don’t know what else I’d do if I wasn’t making music.”

Indeed, Ashworth has been making lots of melodies since he released *Answering Machine Music*, his first release under the Casiotone for the Painfully Alone moniker, in 1999.

Ashworth has been prolific in his lo-fi environs, releasing five full-lengths, over a dozen EPs and singles, and contributions to numerous compilations and soundtracks.

Ashworth’s gooey and soft bedroom pop is the toast of many DIY electronic lo-fi musicians and scenesters, and his music’s eccentric yet bittersweet vibe is catching on like wildfire. And to hear him explain it, the sounds he creates aren’t as strange as they may first seem.

“I like being able to record my own music,” says Ashworth, an admirer of pop music from the ’60s and earlier, as well as recent acts like

the Magnetic Fields and Stereolab. “The sound of my music is basically just a compromise between the kinds of recordings I enjoy listening to.”

And many folks are enjoying listening to the sound of Ashworth’s music. CFTPA’s latest release, *Vs. Children*, is currently making waves here and abroad. And with Ashworth always on the go with his relentless touring and recording schedule, surely he’ll keep those waves crashing.

“I don’t know what else I’d do if I wasn’t making music.”

OWEN ASHWORTH
CASIOTONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE

“I just got back from a tour of Australia and New Zealand,” he says. “It was one of my favorite times being on tour. The shows were great and I met a lot of really nice people.”

“Later in January I’m going on a week-long tour of Florida,” he continues. “Then, hopefully, I’ll spend most of February recording, and then I’m going to try to get down to Texas and up the east coast in March, and maybe I’ll go back to



Owen Ashworth is the man behind the sounds of Casiotone for the Painfully Alone.

Europe after that.”

Despite his manic schedule and intimate body of work, Ashworth is a good-humoured and personable fellow with a fondness for pop culture both high and low. For example...

“There’s something really appealing about a dog playing piano,” jokes Ashworth while discussing the merits of the Muppets. “I like Rowlf. He has a friendly, low-key

personality that I find appealing, and I like the fact that his paws were gloves with Jim Henson’s actual hands in them.”

It’s easy to picture Ashworth’s affinity for Rowlf since CFTPA is powered almost exclusively by a Casio SK-1 and several souped-up Casiotone keyboards.

But that said, Ashworth has been diligently throwing other in-

struments into the mix, mostly of the analog variety, but the odd cello and drums do keep cropping up in his ever-expanding, jerry-built body of work.

“I consider my musical career to be a success in the sense that I don’t have to work another job,” says Ashworth. “Music keeps me busy enough to keep me afloat, and that’s a very satisfying feeling.”

Aidan Knight drops solo disc

PETER GARDNER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even though he’s only 23, Aidan Knight has been a staple of the Victoria music scene for eight years.

“I was going to local all-ages shows when I was 14 or 15,” says Knight, “and I just started thinking, ‘Hey, I can do that.’”

Starting out leading the pop-wonder band Black Tie Social, Knight was also a guitarist in other bands, such as pop-rockers Maurice—whom he recently parted ways with, on good terms—and remains a major part of alternative-rock outfit Counting Heartbeats.

And on top of all those bands, Aidan Knight has always put time into his own solo work.

Through all of these endeavors Knight has gained himself a major following locally and a lot of buzz across the country. Now, he’s finally releasing his first solo album, *Versicolour*.

The album, recorded in Vancouver with producer Jonathan Anderson (In Medias Res, Great Aunt Ida), is a mix of many genres, including folk, rock, and alt-country.

Those genres flow together easily for Anderson, but the recording of *Versicolour* wasn’t as smooth—it took two years of going to the mainland to lay down tracks.

“It was just finding the time to go over to Vancouver,” says Knight, “and not just finding the money, it was just about being in the creative mind to go and do it.”

The album features guest appearances by his longtime collabor-

ator and girlfriend Julia Wakal, as well as backing on most songs from Toronto’s seven-piece orchestra, the O’Darling.

“It’s all about creative marketing. The marketing geniuses are the ones who are going to make it.”

AIDAN KNIGHT
LOCAL MUSICIAN

“Working with the O’Darling was great,” says Knight, “because I would have a song and say, ‘Okay, I’m pretty much done with it; what can you bring to the table?’”

Knight is offering two songs from *Versicolour* for free on his website in exchange for the listener’s email address.

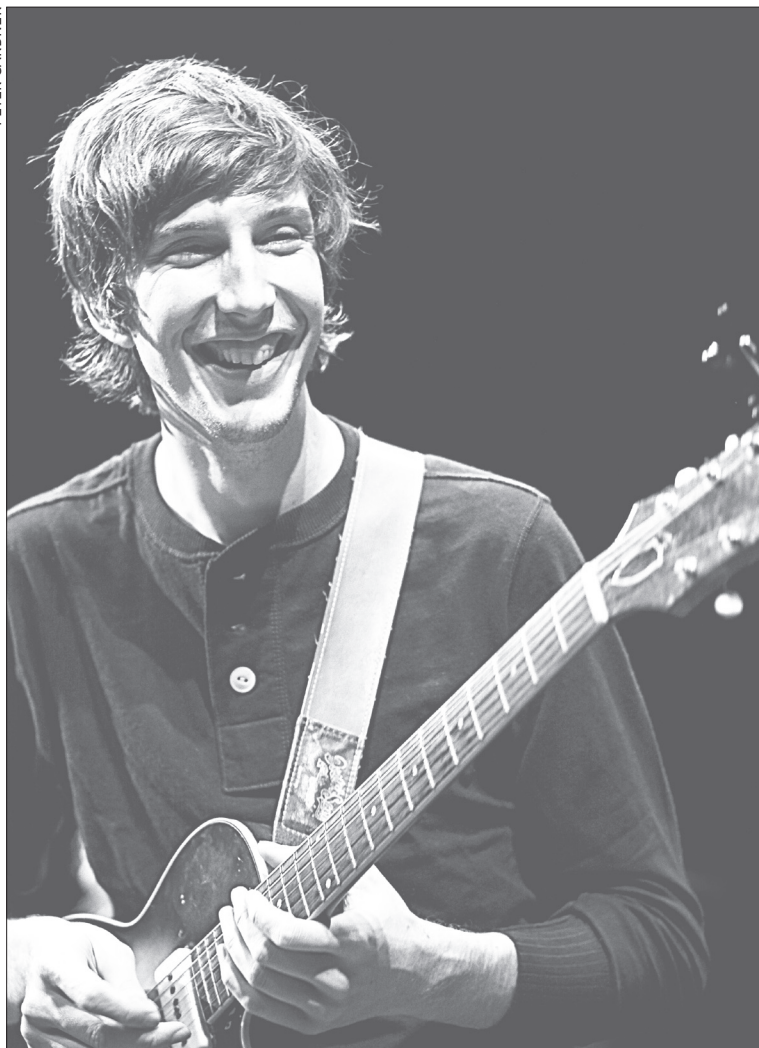
It’s a barter system he thinks makes sense, as finding new ways to get your music out there is important, he says.

“It’s all about creative marketing,” says Knight. “The marketing geniuses are the ones who are going to make it.”

And Knight loves thinking about the endless possibilities for marketing music.

Even when it involves frozen meat. Actually, especially when it involves frozen meat.

“It’s like when some guy goes, ‘So, hey, I just had this great idea—



Aidan Knight is all smiles because his solo disc is finally finished.

you buy a new fridge for your house, and then inside the freezer is a pack of bacon, and that’s my record. It’s encoded on the bacon, and you put it on your turntable and that plays my record,” says Knight. “The day that happens is the day I’m satisfied.”

Aidan Knight

Jan. 8, Lucky Bar
Jan. 9, Fairfield United Church
aidanknight.com



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Find us near the Richmond and Foul Bay bus stops at Lansdowne, and near the bus shelter at Interurban.

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Noise Addict

BY PETER GARDNER

Three real modern-day classics

The term “modern-day classic” gets thrown around so much it’s become a cliché. Just about every movie, album, or book that more than three people like seems to get the term attached to it. It’s gotten to the point where calling something a modern-day classic is almost meaningless. But here are three albums that truly deserve that title.

Boxer by **the National** (myspace.com/thenational) was almost the breaking point for the band. They were at such high tension during many moments of recording that breakup rumours were swirling. But, somehow, as happens so often during those tense times in a band’s recording process, something wonderful, beautiful, and powerful was born. Singer Matt Berninger’s distinctive, almost-talking baritone voice and his rather mature midlife lyrics, mixed with the perfectly placed guitars and wonderful string arrangements, elevate *Boxer* to a level few bands have reached.

Okkervil River’s (myspace.com/okkervilriver) *Black Sheep Boy* is a concept album about a character, the Black Sheep Boy, which was inspired by an old folk song of the same name. Now, a whole album based on a character from an old folk song may sound like a long shot, but the album is composed of some of the most powerful and emotional songs to ever be written



Fucked Up

by Okkervil River. The standout track is “For Real,” which features a vocal performance by band leader Will Sheff that’s so intense you can actually hear the spit hit the microphone as he almost screams, in cracked-voice wonder, the broken words of the Black Sheep Boy.

If there’s one band that’s pushing the limits of hardcore, it’s Toronto’s **Fucked Up** (myspace.com/epicsinminutes), who released

the Chemistry of Common Life in 2008. The album is without a doubt a hardcore album, but you’d be hard-pressed to find another album in the entire genre as diverse as this. Strings, flute, clean female backing vocals—these are things rarely heard in hardcore. The album is a breathe of fresh air to an often stale genre, and it’s easily the most unique heavy album of the last decade.

Local artist the queen of quirky

JENNA SEDMAK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a city like Victoria, there’s an array of talented, unique artists who put their heart into their work. Local artist and crafter Liz Dempsy—who goes under the name Vena Cava—is definitely one of them.

“Vena Cava is like a cave with many tunnels, leading to different places and other dimensions,” says Dempsy on her pseudonym.

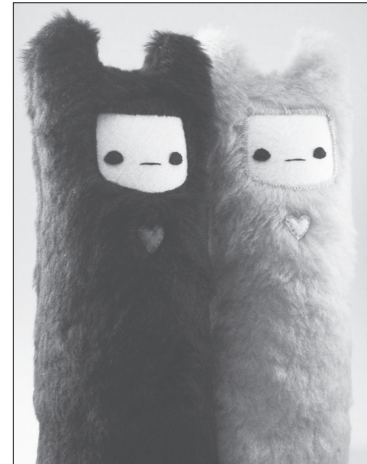
Dempsy’s unique style can also be summed up by that description. She takes inspiration from things that embody day-to-day cuteness as well as unusual pop-culture artifacts.

Dempsy says she’s inspired by “weird old toys and holiday decorations, carnivals, unexpected colors, Japan, heavy metal, little dogs, candy, albinos, cats, wizards, crosses, and crystals.”

It’s this mix of unique inspiration and Dempsy’s creativity that combine to make crafty items such as plush toys—her specialty. Aside from the plush creatures, Dempsy also constructs other works of whimsy.

“I draw and draw with little Micron pens,” says Dempsy. “The one I’m working on now is called ‘Girls Infinity.’ Next will be ‘Boy Rainbow.’ I like pairs and themes.”

A lot of people are intrigued by Dempsy’s designs, and it’s been that way for a while—she’s been selling her art—or early versions of it—for as long as she can remember.



Liz Dempsy’s plush creatures.

“I once sold a paper airplane to [actor] Mike Myers. It cost two dollars,” says Dempsy.

Dempsy is also filled with inventive ideas for art. And she says there’s enough going on in her head to keep the creativity flowing.

“Everything all bubbling and fizzing about in my head, things I find funny and want to make real,” says Dempsy on what keeps her motivated.

Dempsy—who refers to Victoria as a “moist and mossy womb”—doesn’t suffer from a lack of motivation in the slightest. In fact, she’s currently thinking about ideas for future pieces.

“Some gigantic things,” Dempsy says of what she has planned, “like a huge, multi-themed drawing, and a mystery bear that you can crawl inside of to hear whale calls or something.”

Kool
107.3

Today’s Best Music

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Ke\$ha > Tik Tok | 21. Kings of Leon > Use Somebody |
| 2. Black Eyed Peas > Meet Me Halfway | 22. Taylor Swift > Fifteen |
| 3. Jay Z/Alicia Keys > Empire State of Mind | 23. Karl Wolf > Yalla Habibi |
| 4. Jason Darulo > Watcha Say | 24. Kelly Clarkson > Already Gone |
| 5. D. Guetta/Akon > Sexy Chick | 25. Orianthi > According To You |
| 6. Iyaz > Replay | 26. Jay Sean > Do You Remember |
| 7. Down w/ Webster > Rich Girl | 27. Beyonce > Sweet Dreams |
| 8. Hedley > Cha Ching | 28. Dragonette > Pick Up The Phone |
| 9. Lady Gaga > Bad Romance | 29. Shinedown > If You Only Knew |
| 10. Cascada > Evacuate The Dance... | 30. Jay Z > Run This Town |
| 11. Owl City > Fireflies | 31. Daughtry > Life After You |
| 12. Nickelback > Never Gonna Be Alone | 32. D. Fernandes > Addicted |
| 13. Miley Cyrus > Party in the USA | 33. Hedley > Don't Talk to Strangers |
| 14. Michael Buble > Haven't Met You Yet | 34. Carmen/Camille > Shine For You |
| 15. Default > Little Too Late | 35. Timbaland > Morning After Dark |
| 16. Britney Spears > 3 | 36. Faber Drive > Get Up And Dance |
| 17. Boys Like Girls > Two Is Better Than One | 37. Colbie Caillat > Falling For You |
| 18. Jay Sean > Down | 38. Stereos > Throw Your Hands Up |
| 19. Suzie McNeil > Help Me Out | 39. Rihanna/Jeezy > Hard |
| 20. Jepsen/Ramsay > Sour Candy | 40. Lights > Saviour |

TOP 40
COUNTDOWNSaturdays 10am-2pm
Sundays 6pm-10pm

www.1073kool.fm

Worth the Trip?

The battle of on-campus and off-campus eats
BY ALAN PIFFER AND ED SUM



Campus Café
Lansdowne Campus
Szechuan Beef Stir Fry
\$8.69 (with a drink)

Presentation and service

E: Oh my fucking god, what are the chefs of Aramark thinking? Microwaved rice? If you need to reheat it, you steam it in a bowl inside a pot on an oven. Sure, that takes longer, but at least then I wouldn't have to gawk at seeing rice slop onto the platter like a dead octopus.

A: As I've said before, I'm not the rice connoisseur you are, Ed, but the rice in this dish looked so blah it was heartbreaking. And then there was the other stuff plopped on top of the rice. It had this greasy sheen found in only the cheapest of ingredients. The slimy appearance reminds me of their breakfast special, but I don't know why it would remind me of something so vastly different. I'm scared.

Taste

E: I was starving, but that wasn't enough to force me to eat any more of the rice. It would've been better left to ferment into wine because getting drunk on rice wine is the only way I would eat that dreck again. At least the stir-fried beef and vegetables are good. The beef is really beef, the cabbage is crunchy, and the vegetables are crisped just right, without being overdone. Unfortunately, the peppercorn spice is sparsely used—my eyes weren't tearing up and the back of my ears weren't sweating, which is what a good Szechuan dish will do to me.

A: As if the thought of Ed's sweaty ear-backs wasn't enough, I was already on my guard with this dish based on the looks of it. When I took my first mouthful, all I could think was one word—"uninspired." It's not bad, but it's certainly not good.



Shogun
Hillside Mall
Beef Mushroom Stir Fry
\$6.69

Presentation and service

E: The warrior in me demands beef, and I certainly got it in this dish. And these guys know how to cook rice right, made fresh throughout the day in a steamed rice cooker.

A: This is definitely a solid dish. It's upscale food-court cuisine. You can make ghetto choices in a mall food court—hell, the McDonald's is right next to Shogun—but the people making the food at Shogun inspire more confidence than the other kiosks. It's strange that there could be a kiosk making what I would call "real food."

Taste

E: For some odd reason, the beef tasted better than what the school cafeteria offered.

A: Ed, that sounds like a mystery best left unsolved, really. But it was an interesting experience to try these dishes within about half an hour of each other. I took a bite of the Shogun stir fry and it just tasted... right. Since Shogun is one of the better food choices at Hillside, it's really no surprise it would kick the cafeteria's ass.

And the winner is . . .

Shogun's stir fry takes the lead, based on flavour and the rice's texture.

Verdict

Shogun's stir fry is about the same price with about the same portion, but the food's quality makes it well worth the short walk down to Hillside Mall.



Inter-Course

BY KELTIE LARTER

Horny bonobo monkey sex

While enjoying some much-needed couch time at my parents' house over the holidays, I came across a documentary about bonobo monkeys.

Bonobos are one of the great ape families from the Democratic Republic of Congo. They make their homes along the south side of the Congo River, and are said to be the closest extant relative of humans.

The genetic similarities are so astounding that some scientists have suggested that bonobos should actually be classified under the genus Homo. (Homo bonobo?)

But what really struck me about our tree-dwelling close cousins was their very sexual social behaviour.

Sex plays a really important role in Bonobo society. Bonobos often copulate by way of greeting, and are the only non-human animals that have sex face-to-face.

They also French kiss, and, although they don't speak English, are known to be cunning linguists,

if you know what I mean.

And that's not all—bonobos engage in male-to-male and female-to-female genital rubbing known as "frot."

A form of male frot known as "penis fencing" occurs when two male bonobos hang, face to face, from a tree and fight it out with their man-sabers.

After they've had a disagreement, instead of hugging it out or thumping each other on the back, male bonobos stand back to back and rub their balls together to reconcile. This rump rubbing sounds like way more fun than a handshake.

And forget pajama parties and shopping—female bonobos prefer to rub pink tacos as a way of social bonding. When a female moves from her own tribe to another, rubbing vaginas with the other females of the group lets them all know she's part of the family.

This kind of female bonding is important for the ladies, because it

allows them to stand united against the males, thereby dominating bonobo society.

Maybe someone should tell Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama that if they just spent a little more time with the girls, they could quite possibly take over the world and turn North America into a gynocracy.

Bonobos don't form monogamous relationships and don't seem to discriminate by sex or age. They even sometimes like to dance the horizontal mambo as a means of conflict resolution.

In fact, when bonobos come across a new feeding ground they get so excited that they often break out into spontaneous orgy in order to release some of the tension about who gets to eat first, and how much.

This could be a new kind of dinner party for humans. Everyone arrives, has a few cocktails, screws each other's brains out, and then sits down to a nice meal. Bon appétit!

Quick bites

Forum

612 Fisgard, 250-385-3288
4/5 bites

CHRISTOPH KONICZEK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This mom-and-pop operation has been in business for decades and has stood the test of time in Victoria's tough food market. My first course was lettuce wraps (\$11), which arrived promptly. The dish had a whole head of washed and

separated leaf lettuce and a fried crispy rice noodle and beef mixture as stuffing. The crab dishes (honey garlic, spicy Cantonese, and lemon and black pepper) were superb. The portion of chow mein noodles (\$11) was very generous, while the Buddhist-style mixed vegetables (\$9) were cooked al dante with a slight hint of ginger and coriander and soy. The crab was out of this world, and the chili garlic sauce that accompanied the Canton-style

crab was sweet and savory with a hint of smoked chili. Following the crab course, I ordered the pork chop Satay noodle soup (\$11), arguably the best item on the menu. The massive bowl of wide rice noodles, rich broth, slow-cooked pork, and Bok Choy practically sent me into convulsions—the good kind.

Taster's tip: A small side dish of smoked chili oil, found at Chinese restaurants, will help give a dish an extra dose of tastiness.

Maude's January Specials

Martini Mondays (Music Bingo starts at 7:30 pm)

Appy Specials (4 pm) / Martini Mondays \$5
Big Rock Trad/ Stanley Park \$5.25 pint/\$14.99 jugs

Black Tuesdays (Open Mic Coming Soon)

Lighthouse Specials
\$6.95 Classic Beef Dip & Fries (4 pm)
\$4.75 Rip Tide / \$4 Jager

Wing Wednesdays

.35¢ Wings (after 2 pm)
Blue Buck / Stanley Park / Rock Creek Cider Specials

Thirsty Thursdays (Wii Olympics Coming Soon)

Pilsner / Canadian / Rickards Red \$5.25/\$14.99
\$6.95 10" Pizza (4 pm), \$6 Double Hi Balls

Traditional Handsome Man Fridays

Big Rock Traditional \$5.25/14.99 (Join the Club with a Mug)
Imports Stella, Guinness, Strongbow \$6.50
Granville Island Winter Ale \$5.25/\$14.99

Kokanee Free Ride Saturdays

\$16 Shotski
Kokanee / Okanagan 1516 / Pale Ale \$5.25/\$14.99
\$5 glass / \$15.25 1/2 Litre Naked Grape Pinto Grigio and Shiraz

Hung Over Sundays

NFL Budweiser Bottles \$4.75
Burger and a Beer \$9.95 (after 3 pm)
\$4.95 Breakfast, \$5 Doubles, \$3.99 Caesars

3810 SHELBOURNE STREET
(AT CEDAR HILL X RD)
250-721-2337

Home of Canucks HD Hockey



DAILY
\$5.95
&
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LUNCH
SPECIALS

Dunlop House
PUB NIGHT

Jan. 14

4-6 PM Off Lansdowne Road, beside the staff parking lot

The year of the queer

CRISTIAN CANO
PRIDE DIRECTOR

2010 is bringing excitement to lots of people, especially in our province. Queer Canadian students can look forward to the Canadian Queer Services Conference (CUQSC), being held the first weekend of February.

CUQSC will bring students from across the country together to learn about how to create community. Students from UVic and Camosun are part of the event—Marissa Johnston, a first-year Camosun student, wrote and produced a

Christmas play to help fundraise for the conference.

CUQSC is still looking for volunteers and donations. Please contact cucsc2010@gmail.com or pride@camosunstudent.org if you can help out.

Also, just a reminder that the Pride Lounge is open to everyone, queer or straight—we appreciate straight allies very much.

The lounge is an excellent place to study, make new friends, or take a power nap between classes. It's located in Richmond House 104 at the Lansdowne campus.

Fight for sustainable food

JESSE BENNETT

CCSS SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

Disparity, inequality, hierarchy, subordination, and obedience all fit nicely into a capitalist system. If they fail, they present danger to order and structure.

But, logically, these modes of behavior we adhere to, if left unquestioned, will keep us in the dark ages of non-sustainable existence. If we are to be sustainable, as a society and a college, we must know the boundaries we fight in and the opposition we face.

If you oppose the system handling our wills with invisible hands by monopolizing the student food market with corporate, non-sustainable food, then you're not alone.

Manifest ideas into action and join the cause to get wholesome, nutritious, local, and satisfying food

in all of our campus cafeterias.

We deserve the best our market can provide, so we are nourished, enabling us to learn and be effective with our time. Instead, we get less-than-best food for high prices.

Additionally, the food we pay a substantial amount for has often travelled thousands of miles to get to us, wasting valuable resources. This food isn't nearly as fresh as locally grown ingredients.

We have come so far only to see we have left something behind—the original life that gave us the energy to be where we are. Now we look behind, and look ahead, and realize that the two are connected, and that we cannot go forward without seeing our destruction any longer.

The original life is a life with sustainable food, a life worth idealizing.



INSIDE OUT

BY AMBER ROWSE-SIMMONS

Emma Webber

Emma Webber grew up on Salt Spring Island and is currently completing her second year at Camosun College. When she isn't dreaming of living overseas in England or Scotland—her family's homeland—Webber studies Anthropology and English with the ambition of becoming a high-school teacher.

How would you describe yourself?

I am kind, impatient, and very clumsy.

What is something not many people would know about you?

That I am terrified of earthquakes.

Do you have any guilty pleasures?

The TV show *Say Yes to the Dress*.

Have you ever performed or received any random acts of kindness?

I once found a teddy bear and returned it to its owner, a small child who had really missed it. It was a very small act, but the child certainly was happy to get her friend back.

If you could meet someone living or dead, who would it be and what would you do?

Queen Elizabeth I. I would ask her to tell me what her life was like in her own words and hopefully enjoy a fantastic cup of tea while listening.

What would you like your grandchildren to know about you,



or remember you for?

I would like my grandchildren to know how to live sustainably and I would want them to remember me for being a fun grandma.

What kind of food really disgusts you?

Wasabi!

How would you spend \$1 million?

I would pay off my debts and my family's debts and then go travel. Although I have already travelled to Western Europe I would go there again and probably Eastern Europe and Russia... and definitely go back to Greece.

Who or what has had the

biggest impact on who you are today?

My father.

What is your favourite song?

Hard question... Right now it's "This Is the Life" by Amy MacDonald.

What are your ambitions for the New Year?

To continue my education and be happy.

Do you have any advice for readers?

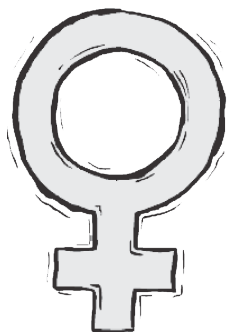
Be green!

Email nexus@nexusnewspaper.com if you know an interesting person around campus that we could profile in Inside Out.

CAMOSUN COLLEGE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

IN THE RICHMOND HOUSE
ON THE TOP FLOOR

(Lansdowne Campus on Richmond Road next to the daycare)



CLINIC TIMES
for Male/Female STD Services
Female Sexual Health and Birth Control

THURSDAYS

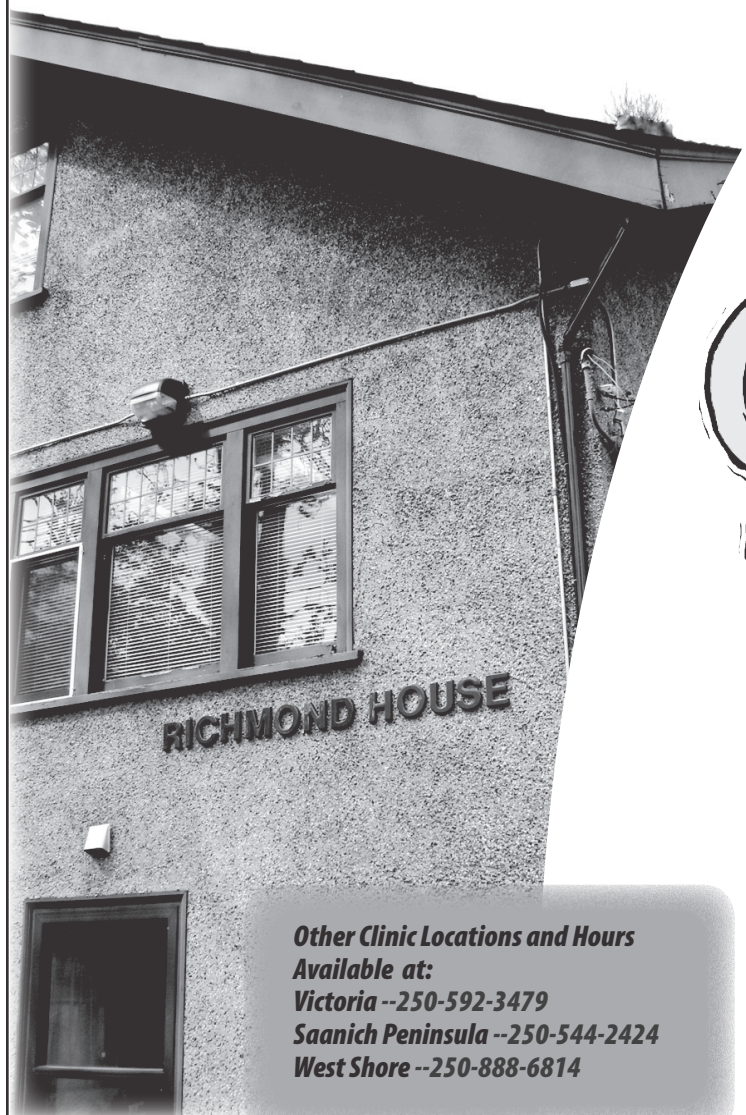
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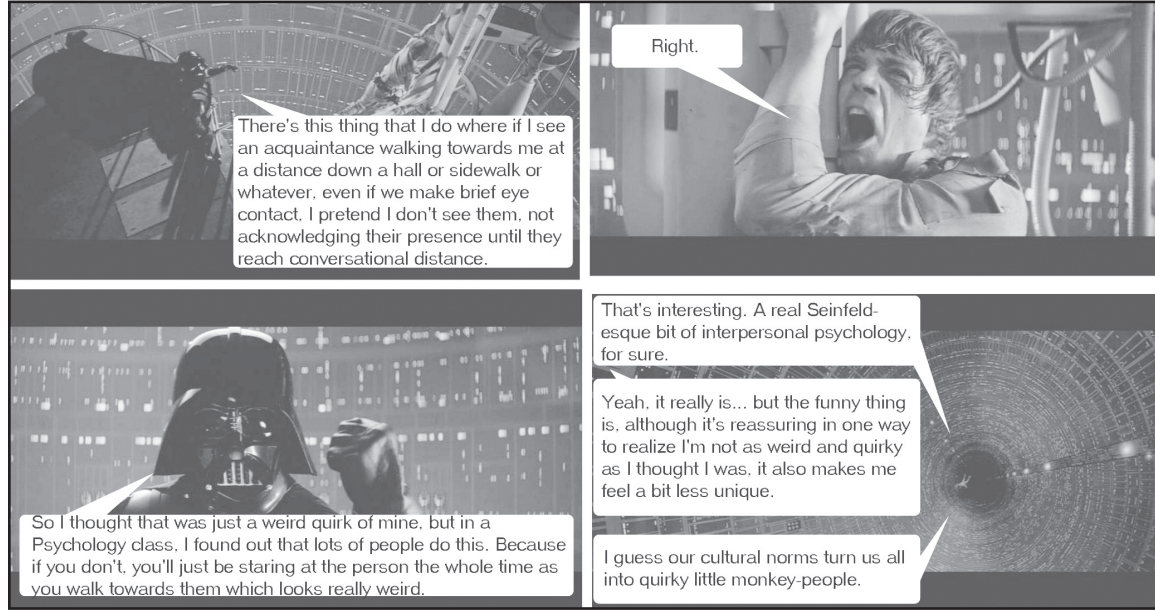


Other Clinic Locations and Hours
Available at:
Victoria --250-592-3479
Saanich Peninsula --250-544-2424
West Shore --250-888-6814

islandsexualhealth.org



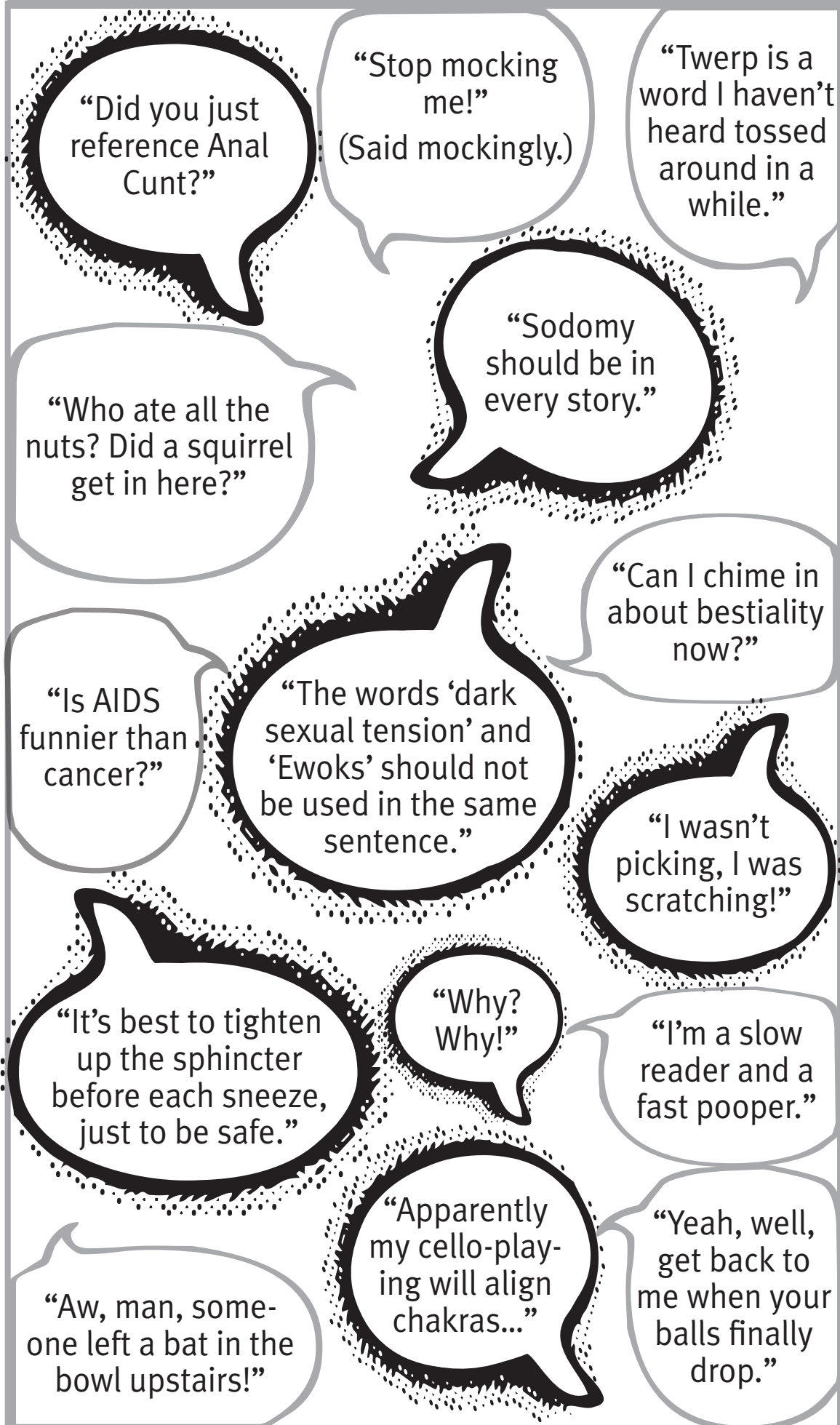
Darth and Luke By Alan Piffer



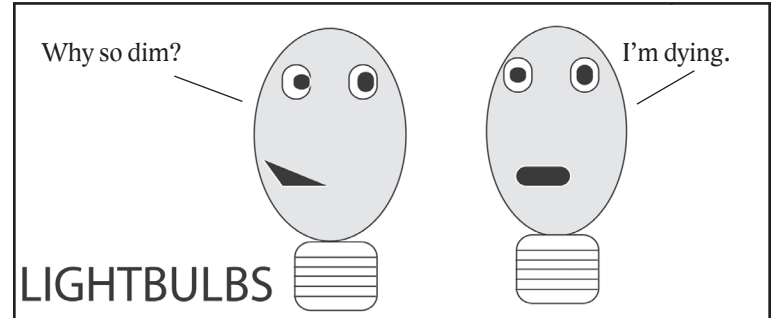
Phlegm By Shane Scott-Travis



Overheard at Nexus
 Who hasn't walked into a conversation at the wrong time—what did he say about anal beads? Or eavesdrop on a conversation that was the equivalent of smelling someone else's fart? At Nexus we do a lot of that, so here's what's been overheard lately...



Big Fat Hairy Ballsack By Shane Priestley



This issue's winner - "Sombrio Sun through Mist" by Eliot May

Did you take a cool photo lately?

Send it to us and if we like it and print it in Nexus, you'll win a prize. Please include your name, phone number, and Camosun student number with your entry. nexus@nexusnewspaper.com



By Shane Scott-Travis

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

Current Swell plus guests

SUGAR, 9 PM, \$15
Victoria's Current Swell, cresting the roots-music wave, will be again splashing down in our lucky town. Treading in similar musical waters as Xavier Rudd, the surf-rock community is loopy for this local act, and with good reason. This will be a mondo night for hodads and honchos alike, and the huarache sandals are optional. Stoked!

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

Aidan Knight, Yukon Blonde, In Media Res, We Are the City

LUCKY, 10 PM, \$15
This is a CD release party for Victoria indie fixture (and Chewbacca fan) Aidan Knight's new album, *Versicolour*. Lots of BC-grown talent will be on hand, sharing the stage with Knight in what will surely be a memorable night of melodious musings. So mosey on over to Lucky, you'll be glad you did.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

Casiotone for the Painfully Alone, Nail Salon, Bad Catholics

JAMES BAY UNITED CHURCH, 8 PM, \$10
Lo-fi indie hombre from the States,

Owen Ashworth, a.k.a. Casiotone for the Painfully Alone, headlines this triple bill that's sure to delight fans of DIY pop and home-bedroom recordings. Local act Nail Salon and Vancouver's Bad Catholics will be filling out the lineup, the latter featuring ex-P:ano frontman Nick Krgovich, sure to be channeling the spirits of Van Dyke Parks and Brian Wilson. If keyboards, soft voices, and introverted ennui are your comfort food, then this show is a full meal deal.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

SNFU, Mendoza, Smoked Out Brainzzz, Lesbian Fist Magnet

SUGAR, 9 PM, \$15
Canadian punk-rock legends SNFU bring their explosive legendary live show to Sugar and have several similarly solid bands along with them. Vancouver heavy-metal act Mendoza, Victoria freak rockers Smoked Out Brainzzz, and another local act, the conservatively named Lesbian Fist Magnet, round out what should be a quiet night of pleasant, non-confrontational ditties (that last bit to be read sarcastically, FYI).

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

Pauly Shore

ROYAL THEATRE, 7:30 PM, \$29.50
1990s icon and star of epic masterpieces such as *Encino Man* and *Son In Law*, American actor and comedian Pauly Shore will be cracking wise when he comes to our town. Probably plugging his upcoming film, *Adopted*, and surely doing that weasel character of his, this will be

a treat for Shore's diehard fans. As for the rest of us, maybe we should try to "wheeze the juice" until the whole thing blows over? Local comic Brandon James kicks things off on what will be, one way or another, a memorable night.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15

Sweatshop Union

SUGAR, 9 PM, \$15
Outspoken and politically minded Vancouver, BC hip-hop collective Sweatshop Union come to town in support of their brand new album, *Water Street*. With a very special guest soon to be added to the show, this night'll be off the hizzle, fo' shizzle.



SATURDAYS IN JANUARY

Life Drawing Sessions

Psst! Wanna come upstairs and see my etchings? Open to all skill levels and bohemian types, these life-drawing sessions feature a live model, sans wardrobe, Saturdays in January from 10 am till 1pm. For five bones you can hone your artistic ways and network at the same time. This goes on up at UVic in the Visual Arts Building, room A150. These sessions are open to all, but space is limited. Did we already mention the live nude model?

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

Victoria Idol 2009-2010 Finale

In association with the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Re/Max, there can be only one! One winner, that is, and they will be crowned at this finale going down in the Alix Gooldeen Hall at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15, so come on out and cheer on the local talent! Judges will be on hand to pick the first-place and second-place winners and dish out the prizes (including a record production deal worth \$10,000!). Visit victoriaidol.com for info on the remaining finalists.

classifieds

RULES

WANT TO GET PAID to talk about what you love? The Land Conservancy is seeking dedicated, environmentally conscious individuals to join our new canvass team. Part-time, flexible hours. Contact Erika at 383-4627 or email everlinden@conservancy.bc.ca

HOME-BASED AVEDA SALON in Fernwood offering hair and waxing services (specializing in Brazilians) at discounted prices. Call 250-294-0822 for more info or to make an appointment.

EACH REGISTERED STUDENT AT CAMOSUN IS ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 40 WORDS FREE PER SEMESTER. This can be in the form of a 40-word ad, or two 20-word ads. Drop off your ad at the *Nexus*, Richmond House 201, Lansdowne, e-mail it to nexus@nexusnewspaper.com, or call the ad in at 370-3591. Please include your student number and contact information. SMALL PRINT: *Nexus* reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason. No sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise derogatory or slanderous ads. Business-related ads are \$15 for 20 words or less. 50 cents per extra word.

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- Tuesdays** Steak Sandwich Night! \$11.95 (regular \$17.95)
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January 31 is the application deadline for UVic's 2010 Teacher Education, Kinesiology and Recreation & Health Education programs; don't miss the opportunity to apply!



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